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Comment: Teshekpuk Lake - Retain Existing Protections

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REP America, the national grassroots organization of Republicans for environmental protection, strongly urges BLM to refrain from weakening existing protections for Teshekpuk Lake and associated wetland ecosystems.

002
Birds

Teshekpuk Lake is a tundra wetland ecosystem with global significance, serving as essential habitat for brant, snow geese, white-fronted geese, tundra swan, Steller's eiders and many other waterfowl. We are disturbed to hear that BLM's preferred alternative would open waters that nearly half the brant and white-fronted geese now use for molting.

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BLM has a duty to develop careful plans for multiple-use lands that balance resource production and conservation. The preferred alternative goes too far towards making energy production the dominant use of the northeastern part of the reserve, at the expense of conservation.

004
Basic

There are broader issues at stake. Weakening protections for Teshekpuk Lake and associated wetland ecosystems would make little appreciable difference in lessening U.S. dependence on foreign oil, even if all 2 billion barrels of estimated "technically recoverable" petroleum reserves are economically recoverable as well.

005
Basic

In the context of the global oil market, the petroleum that would be extracted by weakening Teshekpuk Lake protections would have minuscule impacts on oil prices or on altering the ratio of domestic to foreign oil supplied to the U.S. market.

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In view of the dynamics of the global oil market, sacrificing public lands with exceptional wildlife and scenic values simply will not providing lasting solutions to our nation's energy problems. If we pursue such a shortsighted, ineffective course of action, we will have squandered our natural heritage and still failed to pull America off a dangerous treadmill of ever-expanding petroleum dependence.

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REP America urges BLM to withdraw the preferred alternative and to retain existing protections at Teshekpuk Lake and associated wetland ecosystems.

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Attached: None